REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on November 26, 2003 has been received and reviewed. Claims 1-24 remain in the case. Claims 6-10 were declared allowable if rewritten in independent form, while claim 14 was allowed. Claims 1-5, 11-13, and 15-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lathrop (6,597,359) in view of Kaufman et al. (5,442,733), Jennings (6,430,589), Sowizral (6,445,391), and Greene (5,579,455).
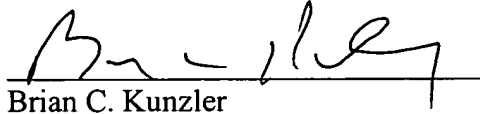
Applicant thanks Examiner Nguyen for the telephone interview of 15 July 2004 with Steve McDaniel in which the Examiner indicated that the inclusion of the limitations of allowable claim 6 within claim 1 would place claims 1-13 in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant has canceled claim 6 and amended claim 1 to include the limitations of canceled claim 6. As such, Applicant asserts that claims 1-13 are in condition for allowance.

Applicant has also amended independent claim 15 to include the same limitations as independent claim 1 in Apparatus form. Applicant therefore asserts that claim 15, as well as dependent claims 16-24 are in condition for allowance. Specifically, Applicant agrees with the assessment of the Examiner stated in the previous office action (regarding claims 6-10) and reiterated by the Examiner during the telephone interview, namely that "the prior art does not teach subdividing the ray bundle into child bundles ...".

In light of the amendments and reasons stated above, Applicant asserts that claims 1-5, and 7-24 are in condition for allowance. In the event that the Examiner finds any remaining impediments to the prompt allowance of any of these claims which could be clarified in a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully urged to initiate the same with the undersigned.

DATED this _12_ day of August, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

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